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# Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

## News Release

April 23, 2015

### **Tourism to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument creates \$15,783,800 in Economic Benefits Report shows visitor spending supports 271 jobs in local economy**

Crow Agency, Montana – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 281,436 visitors to Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in 2014 spent \$15,783,800 in communities near the park. That spending supported 271 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$20,408,100.

“Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Denice Swanke. “We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and NPS economist Lynne Koontz. Nationwide, the report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion.

According to the 2014 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report, visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>. The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Montana and how the National Park Service works with Montana communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to [www.nps.gov/MONTANA](http://www.nps.gov/MONTANA).